

DE LO ME, DEFENDING SPAIN, DEFAMES MISS CISNEROS

Spanish Minister Dupuy De Lome's Letter to Mrs. Jefferson Davis.
To the Fifteen Thousand American Women Who Have "Conspired" to Release Miss Cisneros:
Spanish Minister General Weyler's Defence in a Letter to Mrs. Jefferson Davis.

Mrs. Varina Jefferson Davis, Narragansett Pier, R. I.: Lenox, Mass., Aug. 24.

Dear Madam: Don Juan Du Bosc, First Secretary of the Royal Spanish Legation who went to see you in my name, has reported to me the conversation he has had the honor of having with you, Saturday last.

I have not failed to convey to Her Majesty, the Queen, through her Minister of State, the Duke of Tetuan, that you had really telegraphed to Her Majesty, and I have also reported the noble words you have expressed in your conversation.

Mr. Du Bosc told you that, when your cablegram was received, the Queen and the Spanish Government had no knowledge of the arrest of Miss Evangelina Cossio Cisneros, and also that Her Majesty had given orders as soon as it was received, to report to her the merits of the case, and had been pleased to command me to inform you, if your message was true, that she had received it favorably and with all the regard due to a lady so worthy of respect.

The information received from Cuba by the Spanish Government and laid before Her Majesty, and that has been transmitted to me by cable, shows, in my opinion, that a shameless conspiracy to promote the interest of one or more sensational papers is at the bottom of the romance that has touched your good heart.

The facts show that Miss Evangelina Cossio Cisneros lived to her house the military commander of the Island of Pines, and had men concealed in it, who tried to assassinate him in connection with an uprising of the prisoners in the island. For that offence, far from being condemned and being ready to be transported to a penal settlement in Africa, she has not yet been tried. The Public Prosecutor has not yet presented the case for the Government; he has not yet, as is a requisite of our law, asked a sentence to be imposed on her, and the case is not yet ready to be finally disposed of.

These facts are very easy to prove. The American Consul-General, or any of the foreign Consuls in Cuba willing to get information, can convince themselves of the truth, and could have been applied to by the papers which have started this sensation. If they had really been prompted by a sentiment of humanity instead of having been prompted by a desire of increasing their circulation by their usual slanderous methods.

The absolute falsehood of the press publications, in relation to concrete facts related to this case, is not favorable certainly to the exactitude of the considerations with which the innocence of the accused person pretends to be proved.

I have the honor of giving you the above information by order of Her Majesty, and to inform you by her special command that she is well and favorably disposed to respond to your earnest plea, and I am instructed to add that, as the case stands, and before the trial has been completed and a sentence imposed, she is not allowed by the law to interfere, but that instructions have been communicated to the Governor-General of Cuba to bring a speedy trial and to grant to Miss Cisneros all possible consideration. I am, Madam, very respectfully yours,

ENRIQUE DUPUY DE LOME.

In the two documents which are printed on this page the Spanish Minister at Washington and the Captain-General of Cuba inform you that the Military Governor of the Isle of Pines, who is a nephew of the late Prime Minister of Spain, went to the room of Miss Cisneros—a beautiful, eighteen-year-old girl, the kinswoman of the President of the Republic of Cuba—thinking to find her alone. The two official representatives of Spain make that fact quite clear. They do not say what the Military Governor went to this pure child's apartments for. They also inform you that when he intruded himself upon her men came to her rescue and bound him. He was two hours in their hands, and yet was unhurt. The Spanish Minister does not dare to deny this.

Miss Cisneros was at once taken to Havana and thrown into the Casa de Recojidas, which, in plain English, means House for Abandoned Women. There she has remained for more than a year, sleeping among outcast and abandoned niggers, and although she is now showing signs of quick consumption, the Captain-General has refused to let her go to a hospital lest she might be rescued. The blood of the brave insurgent President flows in her veins, and that is her only crime.

The pious Queen Regent of Spain and the benign Pope have been aroused to pity and action by your petition which the Journal has cabled daily to the royal palace at San Sebastian and the Vatican. You have moved the power that stands above Generals and Ministers. You have stirred the chivalry of the civilized world and vindicated the right of women to be spared from blind military vengeance.

It is a fact that Miss Cisneros has already gone through the force of a military trial. The Spanish prosecutor in Havana has admitted to Mr. Bryson, the Journal's well-known and conscientious correspondent that he asked for a sentence of twenty years' imprisonment.

Not till your imposing protest began did the Captain-General think of denying this. The Spanish Minister is merely seeking to hide the shame of his country and to divert attention from the barbarities of Weyler in the hope of averting action by the American Government this year.

You will save Miss Cisneros. Perhaps you have already saved her.

THE JOURNAL.

But the Havana Fiscal Acknowledges Yesterday That a Twenty Years' Sentence Had Been Asked For.

In an agony of diplomatic shame at the sight of his Government pilloried before the civilized world by the women of America for having kept Miss Evangelina Cossio Cisneros, the beautiful eighteen-year-old relative of the late President of the Cuban Republic, for more than a year in a loathsome Havana prison, an *ex-agro* had a Senator Deputy de Lome, the Spanish Minister at Washington, has addressed an astounding letter to Mrs. Jefferson Davis, whose appeal for mercy was cabled to the Journal to the Queen Regent of Spain, at San Sebastian, in addition to the tions of the mother of President McKinley, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Ulysses Grant, Mrs. John Sherman, Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burr Mrs. William C. Whitney, Mrs. John G. Carlisle, Mrs. Mark Hanna and the distinguished Americans who headed the fifteen thousand women whose names signed to the Journal's appeal to the throne of Spain.

Now that the Pope has announced through the Journal that he will pardon Queen Regent to release the gentle-born and beautiful young captives, unpeaked sufferings have called forth an unparalleled and impressive fifteen thousand American mothers, wives and daughters, the cunning agent of Spain, who denounced John Sherman for telling the truth to the about Spanish butcheries in Cuba, vainly seeks to divert attention from against civilization, youth, innocence and womanhood. He is paid to a cover up the crimes of Weyler, the savage Captain-General, but the Journal last succeeded in getting the truth to the Queen Regent herself.

Mr. De Lome says that the Queen Regent, in answer to the has caused special orders to be sent to the Captain-General to the defenceless young relative of President Cisneros into court have some consideration for her. He admits, as the Captain-General did signature, that the Military Governor of the Isle of Pines went to Miss Cisneros, believing her to be alone and at his mercy, and that those who came to her rescue seized and bound the lustful brute. Then he repeats the stale old story of a conspiracy of a handful of unarmed exiles in the midst of a strong Spanish garrison.

Fortunately, the American public does not have to depend on the Spanish Minister for information. Two of the prominent Cuban women who were thrust with her the prison for abandoned women, Mrs. Agramonte Sanchez and Miss Aguilar, are in New York. Both of these gentlewomen—one seventy-two years old and the other the Surgeon General of the Cuban Republic—were imprisoned without accusation and released without trial. They have told in detail of Miss Cisneros's heart, youth and childlike innocence. They have described her almost in rags, sleep among outcast niggers on bare boards, half starved, sick, denied the privilege of going to a hospital. And all because the blood of the President of free Cuba flows in her veins. For more than a year, remember, this helpless girl has been kept in this foul place—not more than eighty miles from the free soil of the United States.

Miss Cisneros has been taken secretly before a military court a sentence of twenty years' imprisonment demanded. The Havana *ex-agro* has ordered the women of America to ask for her release. Butcher Weyler has ordered the expulsion of the Journal's correspondent from Cuba, although he had lived there for two years, writing almost daily about the war.

Even the Captain-General is frightened at the result of his cruelty. The facts are before the civilized world, and he seeks, with the aid of the Spanish Minister at Washington, to convey the idea that the secret military trial was not a trial. There is but one hope for Miss Cisneros, and that hope lies in constant appeals to the Queen Regent of Spain. There is no pity in Weyler, no truth in De Lome.

Among the thousands of noble hearted American women whose names appear to-day in the Journal's grand roll that calls for the release of Senorita Cisneros are Mrs. W. O. Bradley, wife of the Governor of Kentucky; Mrs. J. H. Lewis, Mrs. J. H. Hazeltine and Mrs. B. L. D. Guffy, wives of the judges of the Supreme Court of Kentucky; Mrs. Alice B. Holcomb, wife of the Governor of Nebraska, and Mrs. Scholer, president of the Cleveland, Ohio, Sorosis.

To show how universal is the interest felt in the fate of this unfortunate girl, the Journal prints among the many names from Boston nearly one thousand signatures of the employees of the department store of R. H. White & Co.

THE DISPATCH PROCURED FROM WEYLER BY THE WORLD.

World, N. Y.: Havana, August 20.

For judicial reasons there is on trial in the preliminary stages a person named Evangelina Cossio Cisneros, who, deceitfully luring to her house the military commander of the Isle of Pines, had men posted secretly, who tied him and attempted to assassinate him. This case is in the preliminary stages, and has not as yet been tried by a competent tribunal, and consequently no sentence has been passed nor approved by me, I answer The World, with the frankness and truth that characterizes all my acts.

LONDON WOMEN TAKE UP THE APPEAL.

Mrs. L. Ormiston Chant Heads a Petition to the Queen Regent for the Release of Evangelina Cisneros.

The Mail and the Chronicle Both Uphold the Cause and Commend the Journal's Action.

By Frank Marshall White.

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London, England, Aug. 25.—A strong effort for an appeal to the Queen Regent of Spain in behalf of Evangelina Cossio Cisneros has been begun here. The fate of the Cuban girl excites wide sympathy among English matrons and within a few days it is expected that many distinguished names will be added to the list asking for clemency.

The Daily Chronicle to-day publishes a long account from Washington of the Cisneros case, and reciting the names of the distinguished American women who have signed the Journal's petition in her behalf. The Chronicle says: "If the sentence is carried out the girl's fate would be worse than death, and the fifteen thousand American women who have united in this effort to save her should have their prayer answered."

The Public Mail gives great prominence to Cardinal Rampolla's message to the Journal, and speaks of it as a sign of the importance of the factor it has become in history making.

Mrs. L. Ormiston Chant, London's greatest social reformer, has interested herself in the case and is actively working in behalf of Senorita Cisneros. Mrs. Chant said to-day: "The sentence is a cruel one, and it is carried out the fate of the sweet young Cuban girl will be worse than death. All true women should unite in the appeal to the Queen Regent. There is absolutely no justification for her severe sentence and it is apparent that it is imposed by the Spanish Government as a measure of revenge instead of a decision of justice. The girl should be set free at once. It is outrageous that she should be tried by military court anyhow. She was apparently captured by a trick and Weyler's plan seems to be to ruin her because she is related to the President of the Cuban Republic."

"This case of Senorita Cisneros is above politics and diplomacy. It is one for human sympathy before us. She could not be called for the action of all true women, irrespective of national prejudices. We must appeal to the womanhood of the Queen Regent."

HOW THE GIRL'S SAD FATE BECAME KNOWN.

The Correspondent Who First Visited the Prison Tells Graphically of Finding Her and of General Lee's Efforts to Release Her.

One day in March last the American colony in Havana was startled by the report that an American lady had been taken into the country in a chain and carried to the Casa de Recojidas, the prison for abandoned women, both in the city and in the country. The report was at first regarded as a mere rumor, but when it was confirmed by the countrywoman, Bryson, the Journal immediately sent a reporter to the prison to see if it was true. The reporter found that it was true, and that the girl was a Cuban woman named Evangelina Cossio Cisneros. The girl was found in a room with other prisoners, and she was in a state of great distress. The reporter found that the girl was a beautiful, eighteen-year-old girl, the kinswoman of the President of the Republic of Cuba. The reporter found that the girl was being kept in the prison for no other reason than that she was the daughter of a Cuban revolutionary. The reporter found that the girl was being kept in the prison for no other reason than that she was the daughter of a Cuban revolutionary. The reporter found that the girl was being kept in the prison for no other reason than that she was the daughter of a Cuban revolutionary.

GOOD CAUSE FOR PAPAL INTERCESSION, SAYS MARTINELLI.

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 25.—"I am sorry that my position as special envoy of His Holiness the Pope makes it impossible for me to sign the direct appeal made to him by the women of America in behalf of Evangelina Cossio Cisneros."

"The unfortunate Cuban girl has my sincere sympathy, and I trust and believe that the powerful pontifical hand will be stretched forth in her behalf. The heart of His Holiness is tender toward all in distress, and he believes not in warring upon women or children, and in this case, if all the stories be true, he has just and good cause for the issuing of a Papal recommendation of clemency and mercy."

"I am deeply interested in Senorita Cisneros's case, and my admiration has been aroused by the general uprising of American women in her behalf."

"They are brave and energetic. Convey my regrets to the New York Journal, and say that my position alone prevents me from signing the petition to the Pope."

Monsignor Martinelli, Papal Delegate to the United States and practical head of the Catholic Church in this country in an interview with a Journal correspondent.

every inch a soldier and a thorough gentleman. He was shocked at General Lee's description of the place and said he would live with them. The girl had indignantly refused to obtain freedom at such a price. He promised to send a sanitary inspector to the jail at once, but it was not until General Lee said bluntly that while he had no right to make any demands he would be extremely grateful if the prisoner would be taken from her awful surroundings and set free or put in a proper place for a woman as young as she, that the Cuban girl's eyes at last raised their hands in expostulation. He declared that such a thing could not be thought of. The girl, he declared, was a monster in female shape. He said she had been the Governor of the colony on the Isle of Pines to her house one night, and that while entertaining him her father had been shot and some soldiers wounded. She would have to stand trial and would probably be deported to one of the African penal colonies to spend her life in perpetual chains.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

New York City, Aug. 23, 1897.

Editor New York Journal:

The announcement this morning of Senorita Cisneros's delicate state of health makes it certain that no time must be lost if any effectual steps are to be taken for effecting a mitigation of the severity of her punishment. In my opinion a strong and immediate representation of her case should be made to President McKinley, urging him without delay, through the machinery of the State, to intimate to the Spanish authorities at Havana, at Madrid and to the Embassy at Washington that the American Government felt that it was its duty to demand for Senorita Cisneros. It seems impossible to think that if this were done the Spanish Government could afford to disregard such a request.

The awful fate to which this girl is condemned cannot be exaggerated in description of its dreadful horror. I have visited Spanish prisons and been degraded and revolted beyond measure at the way in which the jailers treat their own countrymen. So it requires little imagination to think what their treatment of an enemy will be. COUNTESS GWENDOLINE MAUDE OLGA PATRICIA BROOK.

SUCH CRUELTY INCREDIBLE.

Editor of the Journal:

May God's blessing rest upon your life, and greater prosperity be added to your Journal for the noble, humane work it has done for the relief of suffering humanity. The prayers of the women of America have been heard in heaven, and success will certainly crown your noble efforts to rescue the beautiful young Cuban girl, Senorita Cisneros, from her terrible sentence. It seems terrible that such a demoralized act could be perpetrated within so short a distance from the shore of the "Cradle of Liberty." Kindly add my name to your list in behalf of this poor oppressed child of Cuba.

AMY KNOWLTON WOODWARD.

Augusta, Me., Aug. 23, 1897.

FISCAL ADMITS THE OUTRAGE.

Confirms the Fact That a 20-Year Sentence in Ceuta Was Asked For in Miss Cisneros's Case.

By George Eugene Bryson.

Havana, Cuba, Aug. 25, by way of Key West, Fla., Aug. 25.—The Journal's efforts to save the Cuban girl, Evangelina Cisneros, from an impending sentence to Ceuta has had a great effect in Havana.

Weyler is trembling at the probably favorable outcome of the American petitions to the Pope and the Queen Regent. Despite the Captain-General's efforts to discredit the fact, the trial is virtually closed and the officials demand a twenty years' sentence, as indicated in my previous dispatches.

All Spanish courts-martial are secret and mere farces; none are formal. The Judge Instructor takes the evidence separately, as declared by witnesses, and these never confront the accused. Investigations this way continue months in their preliminary stages, until finally accumulated documentary evidence is placed in the hands of the Fiscal or Crown prosecutor for review. He it is who virtually fixes the term of sentence.

From his office, accompanied by his demand as to the term of imprisonment, the papers go into the Judge-Advocate-General's hands, when the trial may be said to be closed. The Judge-Advocate must confirm the Fiscal's demand or enter *nolle prosequi*, and he cannot do the latter without the Captain-General's approval.

The papers in Miss Cisneros's case are in the Judge-Advocate's hands, accompanied by the Fiscal's claim of a twenty years' sentence in Ceuta. If the Judge approves the Fiscal's demand Weyler will surely endorse the sentence. That event could only be closed at Madrid upon the prisoner's appeal to the supreme tribunal of war or marine.

That tribunal confirming the decision, the Queen Regent's pardon alone can save the prisoner.

Interviewed both the Fiscal and Judge-Advocate before leaving Havana, the Fiscal acknowledged that he had demanded a twenty years' sentence, and confirmed the Journal's statement. The case has already passed his jurisdiction to the Judge Advocate.

The Judge Instructor of public the Journal has case. Ex-Governor Berris, he said, had been compromised, and had lost post because charges had been preferred against him at Madrid. The principal clerk of the Judge Advocate's office assured me that his chief would not dare withhold approval of the sentence demanded. An adjutant of the Captain-General intimated that Weyler feared the appeal to Madrid, and would delay matters as long as possible, during which time the victim of Berris's vengeance would surely remain in seclusion.

Yesterday was visitors' day at Recojidas. I saw Evangelina there, surrounded by a dozen other unfortunate Cuban women, in the midst of forty to fifty of the vilest of female outcasts. Her Madonna-like face, though tinged with sadness, glowed hopefully as I told her of the great fight the Journal was waging for her liberty.

A well-known Havana correspondent of a Madrid paper of prominence told me this morning that Berris had been ordered to Madrid to defend himself against the Journal's charges.

All the prominent Catholic clergy in Havana approve the Journal's fight, but do not dare be quoted. They have addressed a private appeal to Bishop Solon, the Queen Regent's confessor. General Weyler did not deign to answer a polite personal request of Consul General Lee yesterday inquiring the status of the Cossio case. He represents all interest taken in her, no matter from what source. The Havana Cubans loudly praise the Journal's great fight in the girl's behalf.

WHY BRYSON WAS EXPELLED.

The Journal Correspondent Gives Text of Weyler's Order and the Explanation of It.

By George Eugene Bryson.

Aboard United States mail steamer *Mazette* at anchorage, Havana, Cuba, Aug. 25.—The following is the text of Captain General Weyler's announcement of my expulsion:

"Palace of the General Government, 1st and of Cuba, Havana, August 19, 1897: To the Consul-General of the United States: Sir: As a result of police investigation inaugurated by this Government."

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